

# NUMISMA.

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# NUMISMA.

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### THE HOG MONEY OF SOMMERS ISLAND.

The following article by J. H. Lefroy, Esq., of Bermuda, was originally printed in the "Numismatic Chronicle," 1867. The subject is perhaps a little worn and threadbare, but as the records of the island were consulted in its compilation, and the account, in certain particulars, enlarges on Crosby's notes in the "Early Coins of America," it may be of interest to our readers. Note that Lefroy

speaks of eight specimens of the shilling and of three of the sixpence, as known in Bermuda itself at the time the article was written; to these add the two shillings and one sixpence, mentioned by Crosby, also two or three shillings known to have been in England prior to 1867, plus the shilling and sixpence offered at one of Mr. Scott's sales in New York last year, and we have a total of at least 13 shillings and 4 sixpence located at the present time; this number will certainly increase with time, as new specimen will from time to time be discovered in Bermuda and elsewhere.

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The difficulty of obtaining currency for the new trans-atlantic settlements, was one which made itself felt very early in the colonization of the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries. Spain herself, mistress of the precious metals, could not at first solve it. In 1586 they used in St. Domingo and Porto Rico a currency of small square pieces of leather, for want of silver and gold, and, some years later, in 1638, a paper money. It is therefore no matter of surprise that the Virginia Company of London, in obtaining from James I. a charter for the settlement of the Bermudas (1612), should have contemplated the issue of a special coinage. In their instructions, dated April 27, 1612, to their first Governor, Mr. Richard Moore, they say (Art. 4):—"Wee ordaine that such persons, workemen or laborors, as shall at any tyme be employed by you for our busiues in the said Plantacon, you shall give vnto them such reasonable day wages as in your discretion you shall esteeme them worthie to have deserved, so that exceed not *xxd.* for workmen and *12d.* for a labourer, for which purpose by the next supplie there shalbe a coyne sent vnto you withall convenient opportunitie, togeather with the rates and value thereof."—(Bermuda Records, MS. A.)



The "next supplie," we learn from Smith's "History of Virginia," was not long delayed. It arrived in the same year, and another in June, 1613, but as that author is silent as to any money having arrived, by either or at any time in Governor Moore's rule, it seems probable that the Company did not make good their intention.

The Virginia Company resigned the Bermudas to the Crown in November, 1614, and they were shortly afterwards granted to a new Incorporation, entitled "the Governor and Company of the City of London for the plantation of the Somer Islands," by letters patent, dated June 29, 1615, in which distinct provision is made for the issue of a coinage, in the following terms:—

"And Wee do further for us, our Heires and successors, give and Grant to the said Governor and Company, and their successors, that they shall and lawfully may Establish and cause to bee made a Coyne to pass Currant in their said Somer Islands, betwene the Inhabitants there for the more easie of comerce and bargaining betwene them of such metall and in such manner and forme as the said Governor and company in any of their General Courts, shall limitt and appoint."

This coinage is distinctly alluded to by Smith:—"Beside meat, drinke, and clothes, they had for a time a certain kind of brasse money, with a Hogge on the one side, in memory of the abundance of hogges, found at their first landing" (Smith, under 1616), and the Company in their instructions to Governor Daniell Tucker, dated February 15, 1615, Par. 25, says:—"Yf any refuse and will not accept his contentment out of the p.ffits in that case, we have appointed a base coyne, w<sup>ch</sup> we send rated with our p.visions, whereby you may give to such men there weckely wages when they worke, and as yon shall find them to deserve, wth wch coyne yt

shalbe lawfull and free for them to buy any p.visions out of the store, or any ffishe, corne, tooles, or any such thinge in the Islands where they can gett the same. And to that end you shall p.claim the sayde coyne to be currant to pass freelye from man to man, on-ly throughout the Islands, and not otherwise."

Par. 26:—"And yf by this meanes yt shall soc fall out that many men of the said general employ<sup>t</sup> shall rather accept to take there contentment by such weckely wages, in Base coyne, whereby the number of those that rest contented with the contract of p.ffitts beinge the fewer, the lesse p.portion of p.ffitts must yssue from vs to give them content, yet for their better incouragement wee p.mis of our owne voluntarie, that the one-half of whatsoever shalbe found that wee have gained by the contentinge soc many with base coyne, shalbe freely imparted by vs to those that have willinglie yielded to take there salarye out of the p.ffitts to make there dividends the better."

The Hog money of the Somers Islands, as it is the earliest of all Colonial coins, has also been regarded as the rarest. A specimen sold at the sale of the Rev. Jos. Martin, which I take to have been the piece at one time in the cabinet of Thomas Hollis, was then supposed to be unique. It was engraved by Snelling, 1769, and by Ruding, and described in this Journal by the late Mr. Henry Christmas, as the only specimen known to exist. It was of the *xiii*d value. The existence of a smaller type of *vi*d. current value, does not appear to have been known to either of these authorities, and the writer has only seen three examples. Of the larger type there are in Bermuda itself about eight examples, one of which was found as recently as last year, but of these, two or three are indifferent specimens.

I.

*Obv.*—SOMMER ISLANDS. A wild boar, with the Roman numerals XII. *m. m.*, a mullet of five points.

*Rev.*—A ship under sail firing a gun, the cross of St. George at every mast-head.

There is something projecting beyond the prow of a curved character, which may possibly be intended for the smoke of a cannon, but seems more like a fantastic beak. A defect in the striking of the side of the ship may possibly have been mistaken for the representation of smoke from cannon.

II.

*Obv.*—SOMMER ILANDS. A wild boar, with the Roman numerals VI, *m. m.*, a cross.

*Rev.*—A ship under sail, the cross of St. George at every masthead.

The hogs are very well drawn, and do not bear out the statements of the half-starved characters of those animals in their wild state. The ships, with a high poop and forecastle, are of a very ancient type.

The records of the colony of Bermuda are extant from the year 1616 downwards, but careful and repeated examination has failed to discover any allusion to this coinage. The currency was tobacco; all debts were recovered and paid in tobacco; all taxes were assessed and levied in tobacco. It would seem as if an inseparable prejudice, which the Company seem to have anticipated, had from the commencement prevented the circulation of money without intrinsic value. Where tobacco is not mentioned, the word sterling is always introduced, and this is perhaps the only ground for a supposition that there may once have been a metallic currency in temporary circulation; but as the coins were not intended to leave the colony, the very limited number of specimens now known to have been preserved, is itself an argument that few were ever issued.

J. H. LEFROY.

BERMUDA, *February*, 1867.

## AMERICAN NUMISMATIC SOCIETY.

The American Numismatic and Archæological Society held its twenty-fifth annual meeting March 20th past, in the Chapel of the University Buildings, New York City. In the absence of the President, Dr. Charles E. Anthon, Mr. Daniel Parish, Jr., presided. Mr. Zabriskie read the address of the President congratulating the Society on its success and progress, and announcing his coming departure on a health trip to Germany, the land of his ancestors. The reports of the various officers all showed the society to be in a flourishing condition, with anticipations of still greater usefulness in the future. There are at present 100 life and resident, and 18 honorary members, the library has gained largely during the past year, the society's cabinet is constantly being enlarged and the finances are in a satisfactory condition. Mr. Gaston Fenardent exhibited a large and valuable collection of ancient Greek coins in gold and silver, which are to be left in the society's rooms on permanent exhibition; Mr. Balmano exhibited a beautiful volume containing a large number of Colonial and Continental notes, also a fine collection of Fractional currency; Mr. Ed. Frossard exhibited his set of 60 1794 cents, combinations of various obverses and reverses; the Hon. Algernon S. Sullivan delivered a learned and eloquent address, and the proceedings in general were harmonious, instructive and interesting. At the close the old officers were re-elected by a unanimous and emphatic vote, each member took a flower from the "Anthon Memorial Vase" and wended his way homeward well satisfied with the mental feast of which he had partaken.

It is proposed, by the American Numismatic and Archæological Society of New



York, to purchase, with a fund raised by voluntary contributions of \$1. and upwards, from the authorities of the British Museum in London, a complete set of fac-similes, numbering 1584 pieces, representing 792 Greek and Roman Coins, from B. C. 700 to A. D. 1.

The entire cost of securing this collection, including transportation, mounting, printing a descriptive catalogue that will also contain the names of all subscribers to the fund, will not exceed one thousand dollars.

Such a collection, with its descriptive hand-book, would be of immense educational value to American numismatists and would prove an important addition to the usefulness of the Society.

Contributions may be sent to any member of the Society, to Mr. William Poillon, 61 Bethune St., New York, Richard H. Lawrence, 31 Broad St., New York, and will be duly acknowledged by the Hon. A. S. Sullivan, Drexel Building, 3 Broad St., New York.

A pamphlet setting forth more fully the particulars of this laudable undertaking may be obtained on application to Mr. Richard H. Lawrence.

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### COIN SALES

*March 1 and 2* United States and Foreign coins, autographs, old newspapers, etc. 963 lots; also addenda to this sale, 70 lots of rare pattern pieces, etc. Catalogue by John W. Haseltine; sold at Bangs & Co, New York.

The addenda of this sale contained a number of excessively rare pattern pieces, among which the 7 20 cents of 1874 (2) and 1875 (5), sold at an average of \$32 each; the 1872 Commercial dollar, only 5 struck, 97.; the 1860 pattern \$5 gold, 53.; a 1796 half cent, *very fine*, 125., etc.

*March 5 and 6.* United States silver and copper coins, Colonial coins and notes, old almanacs, Indian stone implements, etc.

1070 lots. Catalogue by Charles Steigerwalt; sold at Bangs & Co. This was Mr. Steigerwalt's 12th sale, and one of the most important held by him. Extra edition with 3 plates published at \$1.25 *priced*.

*March 7, 8. 9.* The Numismatic collection of the late Dr. Henry D. Fowle, of Boston, Mass. 2581 lots. Total proceeds \$3,800. Catalogued and sold by Sullivan Bros. & Libbie, Boston, Mass. Special edition, heavy paper, priced 1 50.

Carefully and quite ably catalogued, but the admixtures of electrotypes, Paduan coins, and modern forgeries, with the genuine ancient, robbed this catalogue of much of the interest which it otherwise would have possessed. The sequel proved also that a practical electrotyper makes a very poor expert in distinguishing the genuine from the counterfeit. Dr. Fowle was a gentleman of great culture, an ardent student in the numismatic field, and his desire to study all the types of ancient Greek art led him to purchase a large number of electros of coins, unattainable except at enormous prices; but the thought certainly never entered his head that these copies would once be introduced, piece by piece, in the catalogue of his collection.

*March 16 and 17.* Historical coins and medals. 1082 lots. Total proceeds \$2,449. Catalogue by H. P. Smith; sold at Bangs & Co. All coins being more or less historical, this collection had no more claim to be called historical than any other, but the thought was a happy one, and may have helped Mr. Smith to get rid, at round figures, of a great deal of rather unsalable stock. There were quite a number of denarii of early Roman emperors and some fine Greek coins, truly historical, which brought good prices; but the bulk of the collection consisted of Papal medals, curiously described by Mr. Smith and his coadjutor Mr. Proskey, in a semic-comic-historical strain, but of no special value. We note

that the bronze medals of Gregory XIII, obtained by us at the Vatican mint, some years ago, and sold at an average of \$3 each, are gradually finding their way into the market again. One in this sale sold for \$38. (See No. 391.)

*March 15, 16, 19, 20 and 21.* The collection of Mr. Bruning, German Consul in Beirut. 2746 lots. Catalogue by Adolph Weyl, Berlin, and sold by him. We notice this foreign sale because it contained a rare Law medal of the West India Louisiana Co., 1720; a number of fine early dimes, cents, etc., and a nearly entire set of the Louis XV Colonies francaises jetons, struck in copper.

*March 22.* United States and Foreign coins, Colonial and Continental notes, fractional currency, postage stamps, etc. 727 lots. Catalogue by Geo. W. Massamore; sold by Wm. Seemuller, Baltimore, Md. This was Dr. Massamore's nineteenth sale.

*March 28.* United States and Foreign coins, fractional currency, Indian stone implements, etc., the property of B. Schmauk, of Kittaning, Pa. Catalogue by Charles Steigerwalt (13th sale), and sold by him at Lancaster, Pa.

*March 20.* Coins and medals of the United States. 639 lots. Catalogue by S. H. & H. Chapman; sold by Bangs & Co. An 1670, *Gloriam regni*, very fine, sold at 34.; Rosa Ameri, 1722, 18.; 1792 pattern cent, 60.; 1794 dollar, fine, 110.; 1796 half cent, fine, 126.; the Season medals bought in at the Bushnell sale, 305.; No. 559, store card of J. S. Pease & Co., St. Louis, described as excessively rare, but really only scarce, sold at the extravagant price of 15.50, etc.

*April 10.* United States dimes and half dimes, rare pattern pieces, and Confederate notes, etc. 356 lots. Catalogue by John W. Haseltine; sold by Bangs & Co.

The dimes and half dimes, the most com-

plete and perfect set ever offered belonged to Mr. Harold P. Newlin, of Philadelphia, and formed the great attraction of this sale. We do not think that on the whole the prices realized were higher than these beautiful specimens of early American coinage are fairly worth, and consider that several buyers got excellent bargains of little gems that cannot be duplicated at any price. The 1802 half dime considering its condition is worth \$400, but this was the only really high figure, the next one being \$34 for an uncirculated 1803 half dime, and 30 for an 1809 dime. Every collector of U. S. silver should have a copy of this valuable catalogue, so ably compiled by Messrs. Haseltine & Newlin.

*April 12.* American and Foreign gold, silver and copper coins and medals, the collection of the late J. Wily Aulick, Esq., of Washington, D. C. 1059 lots sold for 2907. Catalogue by Geo. W. Cogan; sold by Bangs & Co. A special edition with four fine plates was issued at 1. per copy. A varied and fine collection, rich in proof sets and gold coins.

*April 20.* Foreign coins, medals, antiquities, bric-a-brac, etc. 755 lots. Total proceeds 1278. Catalogue by H. G. Sampson; sold by Bangs & Co. A heavy one day's sale with material enough for two days.

*April 24 and 25.* The Hebbard collection of coins and medals, ancient and modern, American and Foreign. 854 lots; total proceeds 1970. Catalogue by H. P. Smith; sold at Bangs & Co. A very good assortment and brought good prices, but not to compare with the results of Mr. Smith's two previous sales.

*April 26 and 27.* United States and Foreign coins and medals, Massachusetts Pine tree notes, etc. 860 lots; and an addenda of 163 lots, embracing a large number of rare pattern pieces and of valuable coins. Catalogue by John W. Haseltine; sold by Messrs. Bangs & Co.



*May 1.* Foreign coins and medals of Mr. A. Galpin, Appleton, Wisconsin. 703 lots. Catalogue by S. H. & H. Chapman; sold by Bangs & Co.

Another set of United States pattern pieces, not in the Mint cabinet, reserved at 125., and bought in at that price, made its appearance in this sale. We note nos 45 and 46 Jewish shekel and half shekel. From their care to cite previously obtained prices, it would seem that Messrs. Chapman place extremely high values upon this interesting but somewhat obscure coinage. So excessively particular are they on this point that we are simply amazed at their omission to quote the buying price abroad, which is \$15, for either denomination in fine condition, and much less for poor specimens.

*May 2, 3, 4.* Selections from the Cabinets of Dr. Winslow Lewis, late of Boston, together with his numismatic library, and a fine assortment of American gold coins from the original collection of Joseph J. Michley, of Philadelphia. 2094 lots. Catalogue by W. Elliot Woodward; sold by Bangs & Co.

The beautiful gold coins, under the most lively competition, brought high prices; so did some of the numismatic works, etc.

### COMING SALES.

ALL AT BANGS & CO.

Geo. W. Cogan, May 16, 17, 18, 19. *A fine collection.*

John W. Haseltine, May 23, 24; No. 568 genuine 1804 dollar; June 6; June 27, 28, 29

H. G. Sampson, May 29. Fine cents, dollars, etc.; also June 5.

Ed. Frossard, June 2. Fine coins, ancient and modern; rare American coins; June 30, the collection of E. F. Kuithan, rich in rare American coins.

W. E. Woodward, June 12, 13, 14, 15; June 25, 26.

H. P. Smith, June 22.

AT LEAVITT & CO., CLINTON HALL, N. Y.

Scott & Co., May 28, 29.

AT BALTIMORE, MD

Geo. W. Massamore, May 15.

### NUMISMATIC GOSSIP.

After reading the last issue of "Numisma" a copy of which he accidentally discovered under his pillow, Mr. Peter Lamb forthwith settled his coin bill, carefully packed his purchases in a large family chest, and bought passage tickets for Europe to be gone several months. Thus did the great spring coin boom, engineered with such skill and which promised such a rich harvest to its originators and manipulators, come to an early but not untimely end.—The last treasure trove is by an old colored woman living near Jasper Springs, Georgia, who found a bag of old coins, one gold the balance silver and copper. As the neighborhood does not possess a "coin man" we are left in the dark as to their possible numismatic value.—Mr. E. F. Gambs, formerly of St. Louis, who nearly killed himself by too close application to his business as a Postage stamp and Coin dealer, has now removed to San Francisco and informs us that the change of climate has had the most beneficial effect upon him and that he is fast recovering his usual health. Present address 234 Montgomery Street, San Francisco, Cal.—Our two Quaker antiquaries are still at the foot of the spelling class, but if they continue to improve as they have lately they will soon be promoted.—Mr. Geo. W. Cogan has removed to 31 Stirling Place, Brooklyn, N. Y.—A friend is starting a collection of U. S. Pattern pieces, not in the Mint cabinet. He is gaining slowly yet, but expects wonders for the future.—Mr. I. F. Wood informs us that his collections of all kinds go to Bangs & Co. for public sale.

### THE NUMISMATIC MASHER.

Extract from the private diary of Sam. Lamb.

1882 April 1. Bought 1804 dollar, \$350.00.

1883 March 31. Sold 1804 dollar, 6.25.

*Deceiving date,*

*Deceptive hoard;*

*I'll mash my pate*

*'Gainst yonder board!*

Mr. Richard H. Lawrence, Librarian of the American Numismatic and Archaeologic Society, New York; has reprinted in pamphlet form, for private circulation, his series of articles on the Early Coins of the Roman Republic, lately published in "Numisma." The paper has met with the approval of high numismatic authorities, notably of Mr. Poole, of the British Museum, London.

"*The Current Gold and Silver Coins of all Nations*," by Ivan C. Michels, Ph. D. Philadelphia, is a work that will be useful to numismatists and to students of history, and that also will be of immediate practical value to bankers and merchants, whose dealings are more or less in foreign coins. The volume—a large, thin quarto—contains cuts of all coins now in circulation in the world, together with their weight, fineness, and intrinsic value (per latest Treasury Circular); also, a history of the official coinage of the United States Mint from 1792 until the present day; a description of the national gold, silver, copper, nickel, and bronze coins, with the Acts of Congress authorizing their issue, and declaring their weights and fineness, and such matter in the way of notes as the present rarity or the peculiar circumstances under which the coins were issued require. The volume abounds in odd, interesting information; besides the valuable matter directly in the line of the subject with which it deals.

#### COINS FOR SALE

##### A FEW RARE GOLD COINS; ALSO HISTORICAL MEDALS, SILVER

- 1487 ENGLAND. James I. gold Rose rind. King seated on throne, a portcullis below. IACOBVS, ETC. Rev. Shield, etc. A perfect and very fine specimen of this rare coinage. Not in Kohler's Ducaten Cabinet. 27. 25 0.
- 1488 FLANDERS. Philip III., the good, (1430) Liou d'or. A very beautiful impression. Kohler D. C. 1885. Size 19. 7 00.
- 1489 GUELDERIA. William I (1383) ducat. Very fine. 5 00.  
The following are silver, and in the finest possible condition.
- 1490 ENGLAND. Anne, 1704. Bust of Anne to left. Rev. Three shields fastened to palm

- tree; Gibraltar in the distance. "For triple victories, etc." Edge lettered; 26. See Van Loon. 4 50.
- 1491 The same. 1706 Britannia chastising a fallen warrior. Rev. Tower attacked by warriors and defended by females. Rare reverse; 26. See Van Loon. 4 50.
- 1492 George IV. 1821. Fine bust to right by Voigt. Rev. King on horse, preceded by female. "Arrival in Hannover." Crown size. 3 50.
- 1493 FRANCE. Bust laureate in armor to right. HENRY DE LOR DVC DE GVISE. Rev. DISCVTIT VT COELO PHOEBVS PAX NVBILE TERRIS. Sun shining over the clouds, etc. 20 Wellenheim 13821. Beautiful and rare. 8 00.  
He was killed at Blois, 1588.
- 1494 NETHERLANDS. Medallion double crown of Maurice of Orange, 1619. Crowned lion with sword and bundle of arrows under a radiant sun, inscribed with Hebrew word. Rev. Arms and inscription, 35. See Van Loon. 9 00.
- 1495 Rotterdam. 1689 Jeton. Palm tree over crowned arms. Rev. Bust of William III over arch, before which are many figures. 20. 1 50.
- 1466 Max Emanuel. 1692. Bust in armour to right. Rev. A warrior on horseback with uplitted sword, delivering a naked female, chained to a rock, from the attack of a sea-monster. BELGIVM RESVRGENS; a very fine medal, lettered edge. 22. See Van Loon. 4 50.
- 1497 GERMANY. Leopold I, hog mouth, 1694. Triple victory against the Turks and their allies. A victory with three wreaths about to crown three river gods. Rev. Seven cherubs with standards. Lettered edge. 31. See Van Loon, and Wellenheim 7344. A beautiful and rare medal. 12 00.
- 1498 The same. 1699. Laureate bust in armour to right. LEOPOLDVS M. PACATORI ORBIS TERRARVM. Rev. Pesce, a wreath in one hand, and statuette with Juno's head on the other. Commemorates armistice with the Turks. 22. Wellenheim 7359. Lettered edge. 3 00.
- 1499 SAXONY. John Frederick. Bust in high relief and arms. Old cast medal with loop; fine, 30. 4 00.
- 1500 Old marriage medal. Pair joining hands. Rev. Marriage scene at Cana. Very fine; 28. 4 00.
- 1501 FULDA Henry VIII. Archbishop. 1779. Medal with bust on the 50th anniversary of his vicar ship. Willenheim 3779. Very fine indeed. 34. 6 00.
- 1502 POLAND. John Casimir. 1693. Medal struck in his honor at Danzig. Female figure holding suspended two shields of arms, and two hearts, crowned by two cherubs above. Rev. View of Danzig, etc. 40. 10 00.
- 1503 MEXICO. View of building (Spanish) "an asylum to military constancy and valor." Rev. Corner stone laid by His Excellency, President A. L. de Santa Anna, Sept. 27, 1843. 26. Thick; rare. 6 00.
- 1504 HAWAII. Award medal of the Royal Hawaiian Agricultural Society. 1850. A very beautiful medal by Mitchell. 40. 6 00.